

State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison County Public Library, Marshall Branch located at 1335 North Main Street, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Norris Gentry; Vice-Chairman Wayne Brigman; Commissioners Matt Wechtel, Craig Goforth, and Mark Snelson; County Attorney Donny Laws; County Manager Forrest Gilliam; Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Gentry.

Item 1: Property Tax Revaluation Update

Tax Administrator Lori Ray and Interim Tax Assessor Diana Arrowood were present along with Fred Pearson, Emmett Krueel, and Kenny Billing from Pearson's Appraisal Service.

Mr. Pearson presented and discussed the schedule of values, standards, and rules with the Board. He also took questions from the Board as well as discussed the evaluations with the Board specifically pertaining to Madison County in terms of the amount of increase that residents would see, the schedule to hold hearings, and appeals.

County Attorney Donny Laws discussed how the Board of Equalization and Review would function with the Board.

Item 2: Budget

Human Resources Director Brooke Smith presented information regarding the payroll and time management software update. She discussed the Paycor System that would update the system currently in use as well as took questions from the Board. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Brigman and second by Commissioner Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager and staff to proceed upon checking on Paycor's references.

County Manager Forrest Gilliam reviewed and discussed the year end fund balance estimates with the board. He discussed revenues and expenditures compared with other counties of our size. He also discussed a Capital Outlay Fund and how it could be used to pay for large ticket items such as the renovation of the Courthouse. Mr. Gilliam also answered questions from the Board pertaining to a potential Courthouse renovation and discussed hiring an architect for the project. Chairman Gentry recommended that Mr. Gilliam proceed and keep the Board informed of progress.

Mr. Gilliam discussed the Driver's License Office Renovation and the progress that was being made with the Board.

The EMS Contract was discussed with the Board by Mr. Gilliam. Discussion regarding the contract was had by the Board.

Mr. Gilliam also discussed the upcoming Youth League Contract with the Board.

Item 3: Economic Development

Community & Economic Development Director Terry Bellamy presented and discussed an update on high-speed internet and broadband expansion service to Madison County, how funding is being obtained, and budget support for the project for service that is being provided through French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

Ms. Bellamy also discussed the wireless internet that is being funded in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to provide internet to the Town of Hot Springs to address the homework gap.

Ms. Bellamy requested that the Board allot funds from the Economic Development Fund Balance for grant matching for the expansion efforts to continue funding internet for locations in the County. Discussion was had among the Board as well as County Attorney Donny Laws and County Manager Forrest Gilliam.

Ms. Bellamy discussed the groundbreaking in Mars Hill for affordable housing, the Manufacturing Week Proclamation, manufacturers in Madison County, information regarding updating the Economic Development website, and information regarding the Art Park.

County Manager Forrest Gilliam discussed the request for a letter of support from the Board for water cooperation with the Town of Mars Hill. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Vice-Chairman Brigman, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to sign. (Attachment 3.1)

Item 4: Citizen's Academy

Board of Commissioners Clerk/Assistant to the County Manager Mandy Bradley presented and discussed information regarding the implementation of a Citizen's Academy in Madison County. Upon motion by Commissioner Snelson and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with Citizen's Academy.

Item 5: Board Appointments

County Manager Forrest Gilliam advised the Board that no new applications have been received. No Board appointments were made.

Item 6: Closed Session

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Brigman and second by Commissioner Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to enter into closed session.

Upon motion by Chairman Gentry and second by Vice-Chairman Brigman, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Brigman and second by Commissioner Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve an increase in hours for the Part-Time Veterans Services Office Administrative Assistant from 20 hours per week to 28 hours per week.

Upon motion by Commissioner Snelson and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hire of Ruth Edwards as the Part-Time Meal Site Assistant at the Marshall Meal Site.

Item 7: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Goforth and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

This the 24th day of September, 2019.

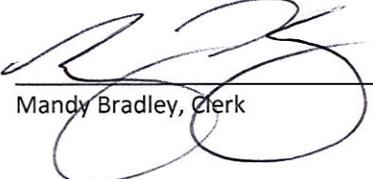
MADISON COUNTY

By:



Norris Gentry, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Mandy Bradley, Clerk



County of Madison

Attachment 3.1

Board of Commissioners

Norris Gentry, Chairman · Wayne Brigman, Vice-Chairman · Matt Wechtel, Commissioner
Craig Goforth, Commissioner · Mark Snelson, Commissioner

September 18, 2019

Mr. Jon Risgaard, SRF Section Chief
NC Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Infrastructure
1633 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1633

Re: Town of Mars Hill Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Risgaard:

Madison County acknowledges the Town of Mars Hill's request to participate in a merger/regionalization feasibility study which will include the Town of Marshall, the Town of Mars Hill, and the Town of Weaverville. By submittal of this letter, we commit our willingness to cooperate to the extent necessary to perform a merger/regionalization feasibility study for the purposes of ensuring regional water security for of all systems involved. Our collaboration in this study does not bind us to act on the recommendations of the study. We appreciate the opportunity to support the application in favor of a study. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Norris Gentry, Chair
Board of Commissioners